WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling an automatic vehicle control system for a vehicle traveling on a guideway, the method comprising:

detecting a failure state in an on-board controller of a train;

sending a restart command from a remote central controller to equipment on-board the vehicle;

sending a reset command to the on-board controller;

determining whether a direction of travel of the vehicle was changed during a time of failure; and

resuming automatic vehicle control operation if the direction of travel was not changed.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the restart command sent from the remote central controller is sent via a wireless communication network.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether a door permitting passengers to exit the vehicle was opened during the time of failure; and

resuming automatic vehicle control operation if the door permitting passengers to exit the vehicle was not opened.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

manually resetting the on-board controller if it is determined that the direction of travel was changed.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the equipment on-board the vehicle to which the restart command is sent comprises a portion of a SCADA system.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

commanding the vehicle to travel at a constant low speed after the controller has been reset if it is determined that the direction of travel was not changed during the failure.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

detecting at least two positioning markers disposed on the guideway to establish a position of the vehicle.

8. An automatic vehicle control system for controlling a vehicle on a guideway, the system comprising:

an on-board controller located on the vehicle;

a radio unit located on the vehicle and operable to communicate with said on-board controller; and

a central controller located remote from said vehicle and operable to transmit a restart command to said radio unit upon detection of a failure state in said on-board controller;

wherein said radio unit provides a reset command to said on-board controller after receiving the restart command and operation is resumed in the on-board controller if it is determined that the vehicle has not changed travel directions since the time of the failure.

9. An automatic vehicle control system as claimed in claim 8, wherein further, operation is resumed in the on-board controller if it is determined that doors permitting passengers to disembark the vehicle were not opened since the time of the failure.